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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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Jan. 13, 1993

UM MARKS MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY WITH WEEK OF ACTIVITIES

MISSOULA --

The University of Montana will mark Martin Luther King Day with a full week of events celebrating the life and legacy of the slain civil rights leader.

A candlelight vigil is scheduled on Martin Luther King Day Monday, Jan. 18, and other events will include a jazz concert, a panel discussion, and film and video presentations.

"All of the events are an attempt to create an opportunity for people to make a positive statement about race relations ... an affirmation of the principals to which Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated his life," said Educational Opportunity Program Director Ray Carlisle, chair of UM's Martin Luther King Day Planning Committee.

At 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, Mingus Dynasty will perform the music of the late jazz musician Charlie Mingus at the University Theatre. Tickets, available from the University Center Box Office, cost \$16 for general admission, \$14 for UM faculty and staff, and \$12 for students. The concert is presented by the Associated Students of The University of Montana.

All other campus events commemorating Martin Luther King Day are free.

The Monday vigil, scheduled for 5:30 p.m. in the University Center mall, will feature short comments from University President George Dennison, Missoula Mayor Dan Kemmis, UM Black Student Union President Sam Thompson and other speakers. University Center lights will be dimmed for the candle lighting, and candles will be provided to participants. All interested citizens are invited to attend the vigil, which is expected to last 45 minutes to an hour.

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"Eyes on the Prize," an acclaimed public television series about the civil rights struggle, will be shown on a television screen in the University Center mall Tuesday through Friday. The eight-hour series will be shown from start to finish between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. each day.

Another free presentation is scheduled for Wednesday evening, Jan. 18. "The Power of One," a movie set in South Africa, will be shown in Urey Lecture Hall at 8 p.m. The Black Student Union selected the film because of its perceptive treatment of race relations, Carlisle said.

The week's events will culminate in a panel discussion and public dialogue Thursday afternoon, Jan. 21, titled "Breaking Down the Walls: Stereotyping from the Inside Out." Six panelists -- including black students, Native American students and a representative of UM's gay and lesbian student organization, Lambda Alliance -- will discuss prejudice and stereotyping. Audience members will be encouraged to participate in the discussion, scheduled from 1 to 3 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom.

The Martin Luther King Day Committee is also sponsoring an essay contest for undergraduate UM students with a \$250 prize. Entries, limited to 500 words or less, may address "any topic appropriate to the legacy of Martin Luther King," Carlisle said. Essays should be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19, to English Assistant Professor Jocelyn Siler at Room 101 of the Liberal Arts Building. The winner will be announced by the end of February.

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